

## THE HOOSAC TUNNEL.

From the *Springfield Republican*, we learn that the Messrs. Shanly, contractors to complete the Hoosac Tunnel, who began work March 31, 1869, had on the 2nd of December made 1,159 feet of progress at the east end, 265 down the central shaft, 45 at the west end, and 1,000 feet at the south end. The tunnel is not up to the contract requirements, but at the east end it has averaged 12 feet per month in excess, and is rapidly coming up at all points. The contractors are steadily pushing forward, increasing their means of operation, having nearly doubled the quantity of work, and do not anticipate the full development of their efficient strength before next May or June. They are confident that they appear which now attack to their project, and will have the tunnel completed in time that advance will thereafter be made considerably beyond the demands of the contract. Indeed, it is already predicted by sanguine observers long familiar with the tunnel, that the Shanlys will be through the mountain in time to receive the first passengers when it opens, March 1, 1874. The rock encountered at the west end is of the hardest character, almost of the quality of flint, and that portion of the work has progressed most slowly. The masons have been hard hit, and now the advance is progressing in rapidity. They have added a good deal of valuable machinery to the working appliances, worth in the aggregate \$100,000. During the month of November the number of men employed was 1,000, and the amount of work done by the State Treasury, at any one time, the monthly disbursements for wages average over \$60,000. By the terms of the contract the Shanlys cannot draw anything from the State until the tunnel is completed, and the amount due to them amounts to \$100,000, at the stipulated price per linear foot and per cubic yard, which must be approved and certified by the State Engineers. They have not reached this limit, but expect to during the present month, will then draw upon the amount funds from the State Treasury for one per cent of the work done, month by month, until the tunnel is completed. They have, however, since beginning operations, received certificates for the value of 50 per cent. of the work done, and at 5 per cent. of \$100,000, the amount is \$5,000. They have repaired the damage done by the October freshet, and will present a bill to the State for the same. By their contract they were to have free use of the Troy and Greenbush Railroad to transport the materials used by the October flood has put them to great expense in the transportation of material over the mountain.

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